[8th September 1928

Excise

Excise revenue in the Ceded districts.

*261 Q.—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many shops were reduced after the Excise Advisory Committee was formed in each of the four Ceded districts; and what are the rentals the Government lost thereby;

(b) whether there were any shops newly started after the Excise Committees were formed and what is their rental value;

(c) whether it is a fact that generally the rental of the previous year is the upset price for the ensuing year; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to give a tabular statement of the Excise revenue of the Ceded districts for the last 5 years?

A.—(a) & (b) Information regarding the number of shops closed will be found in Statement B appended to the Excise Administration Reports. Regarding their rentals, the Government have not the information. They have called for a report.

(c) No. The upset price is fixed at the discretion of the selling officer. The previous year's rental is taken into consideration but is by no means the most important factor.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Imperial Return No. 1 appended to the Annual Excise Administration Reports which have been published.

Mr. A. Parasurama Rao:—"May I know if the report will be laid on the table after receipt."

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"Yes."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"With reference to (c), may I ask the Government to increase these rentals progressively with a view to the ultimate attainment of the goal of prohibition?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"That is one of the ways in which prohibition is said to have been worked out; how far this work is effective remains yet to be seen."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know if that is the policy of the present Minister?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"In that respect the policy of the Government has not been changed."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"What is the percentage of cases in which the upset price has been fixed lower than the last year's rentals during the last three years, if any?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"Notice."

Postponement of toddy sales by the Rajampet divisional officer.

*262 Q.—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajampet Divisional Officer postponed toddy sales because he did not get bidders according to his expectation;